

## Message Text

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11

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SY-04 AID-05 PC-01 IO-10 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 EB-07 COME-00 /090 W

----- 107340

R 300905Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY TANANARIVE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6899

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PORT LOUIS

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

CINCLANT NORFOLK VA

CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON ENG

COMIDEASTFOR

C O N F I D E N T I A L TANANARIVE 0191

DEPT PASS DIA

ADDIS ABABA FOR RSS: PRETORIA FOR RSO

CINCLANT AND CINCUSNAVEUR FOR POLADS

REF: TANANARIVE 0156 (NOTAL)

1. ASSISTANT COMMERCIAL ATTACHE OF FRENCH EMBASSY IN  
TANANARIVE INFORMED EMBOFF JAN 29 THERE HAVE BEEN SEVERAL  
RELATIVELY MINOR ATTACKS AGAINST FRENCH PERSONS AND  
PROPERTY IN TANANARIVE DURING PAST FEW DAYS. ATTACKS HAVE  
BEEN MAINLY STONINGS OF CARS BY GROUPS OF MALAGASY YOUTHS  
OR STREET URCHINS, OFTEN LED BY OLDER MAN. COMMERCIAL  
ATTACHE'S OWN VEHICLE WAS AMONG THOSE STONED WHILE PARKED  
IN FRONT OF HIS OFFICE, WHICH IS TURN IS LOCATED IN  
BUILDING DIRECTLY ADJACENT TO U.S. EMBASSY HERE. (WHILE  
SEVERAL OF EMBASSY'S VEHICLES WERE PARKED IN LOT OPPOSITE  
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OFFICE BUILDING HOUSING FRENCH EMBASSY COMMERCIAL SECTION,

NONE OF OUR VEHICLES SEEMED TO BE OBJECT OF ATTENTION.)

2. FRENCH ATTACHE REPORTED HIS EMBASSY HAS BEEN INCREASINGLY CONCERNED ABOUT DETERIORATING POLITICAL CLIMATE HERE DURING PAST WEEK, PARTICULARLY APPARENT "DISSOLUTION OF AUTHORITY," AS HE PUT IT. AFTER EACH STONING INCIDENT JAN 27 AND 28 FRENCH EMBASSY CALLED LOCAL SECURITY AUTHORITIES TO REQUEST PROTECTION OR CRACKDOWN ON UNRULY GROUPS OF YOUTHS, BUT WAS UNABLE TO GET EVEN ANSWER TO THEIR CALLS. ON JAN 29, HOWEVER, FRENCH MISSION FOR FIRST TIME IN OVER WEEK WAS ABLE TO GET THROUGH TO INTERIOR MINISTER COL. RICHARD RATSIMANDRAVA. RATSIMANDRAVA SENT GENDARMES WHO ARRESTED GROUP OF YOUTHS WHICH HAD AGAIN COLLECTED IN FRONT OF FRENCH COMMERCIAL OFFICES. SIMILARLY, SECURITY AUTHORITIES ARRESTED SEVERAL OTHER GROUPS WHICH HAD BEEN THREATENING FRENCH OFFICES OR SHOPPERS IN CITY.

3. BELATED BUT EFFECTIVE RESPONSE OF SECURITY AUTHORITIES HAS LED FRENCH MISSION TO BE SOMEWHAT LESS ALARMED FOR SECURITY SITUATION THAN IT WAS EARLIER, ATTACHE REPORTED. NONETHELESS FRENCH EMBASSY CONTINUES CONCERNED FOR POSSIBILITY OF CIVIL DISTURBANCES IN MADAGASCAR AND IS CAUTIONING FRENCH NATIONALS TO TAKE PRECAUTIONS. MAIN FRENCH CONCERN IS THAT APPARENT DIVISION, INDECISION, AND LACK OF AUTHORITY IN GOVERNMENT ("DISSOLUTION," HE TERMED IT) MAY LEAD TO OUTBREAKS OF CIVIL STRIFE BASED ON LOCAL TRIBAL OR REGIONAL ANIMOSITIES (I.E. MERINA VS. COTIER), WITH ANTI-FRENCH RADICALS TAKING ADVANTAGE OF ANARCHIC SITUATION TO STIMULATE ATTACKS ON FRENCH CITIZENS AND PROPERTY. IN EVENT OF SERIOUS ATTACKS, ATTACHE REPORTED FRENCH GOVERNMENT IS PREPARED TO EVACUATE ALL FRENCH DEPENDENTS FROM COUNTRY BY AIRLIFT AND HAS CONTINGENCY PLANS PREPARED TO MEET SUCH EVENTUALITY. FOR THE TIME BEING, HOWEVER, THEY ARE ASSESSING SITUATION ON DAY-TO-DAY BASIS.

4. THERE HAVE BEEN NO RPT NO INCIDENTS HERE INVOLVING AMERICANS. EMBASSY HAS TAKEN PRELIMINARY STEP OF CAUTIONING EMBASSY EMPLOYEES AND AMERICAN COMMUNITY IN TANANARIVE TO AVOID CROWDS AND UNNECESSARY TRAVEL IN TOWN AFTER DARK. KEY EMBASSY OFFICERS, INCLUDING AMBASSADOR, HAVE DRIVEN BY CONFIDENTIAL

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KEY POLICE AND MILITARY HEADQUARTERS TO INSURE ALL CONCERNED ARE AWARE OF POTENTIAL TROUBLE SPOTS AND WOULD BE ABLE IDENTIFY THEM FROM RADIO REPORTS. WARDEN LIST RECHECKED AND ALL WARDENS WILL KEEP US INFORMED OF THEIR WHEREABOUTS. ROUTINE REVIEW OF SECURITY PROCEDURES AND EQUIPMENT CHECK ALSO CONDUCTED. TANANARIVE REMAINS QUIET WITH NO CHANGE IN NORMAL COMMERCIAL ACTIVITIES.  
MENDENHALL

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